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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Visualizing Semipermeability of Cell Membrane by a pHresponsive Ratiometric AlEgen

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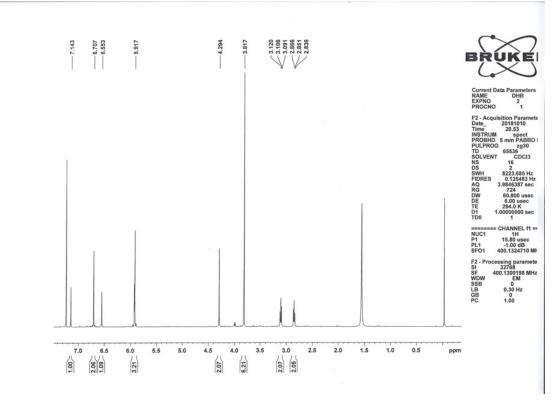


Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dhBBR in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

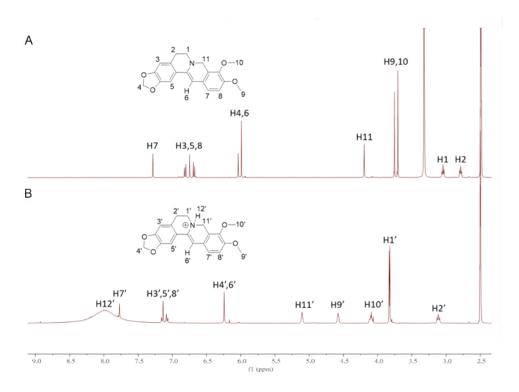


Fig. S2  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of dhBBR before (A) and after (B) the addition of trifluoroacetic acid in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> solution.

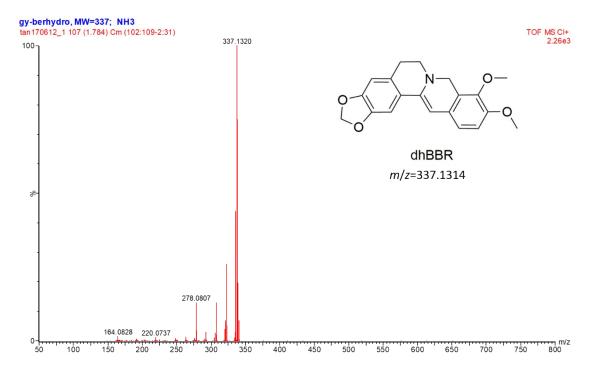
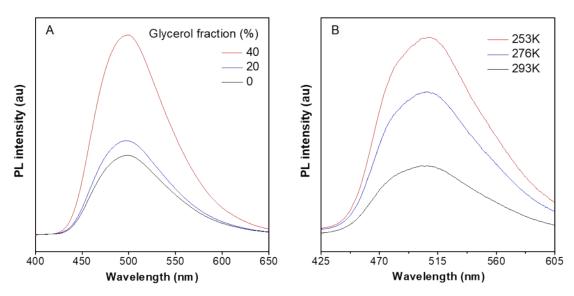


Fig. S3 HRMS spectrum of dhBBR.



**Fig. S4** (A) PL spectra of dhBBR in ethylene glycol/glycerol mixtures with different fractions of glycerol. (B) Temperature dependence of the PL spectra of dhBBR in DMSO solution. Solution concentration:  $10 \, \mu M$ ; Excitation wavelength:  $365 \, \text{nm}$ .

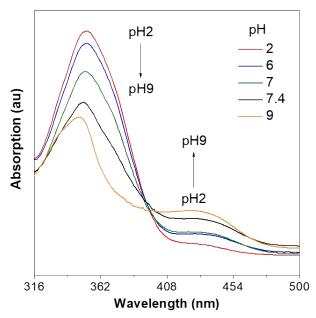
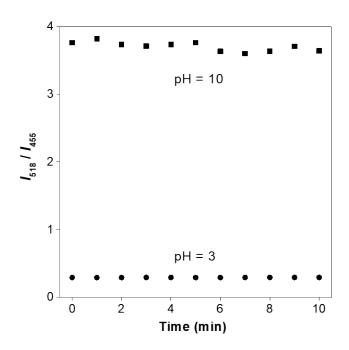
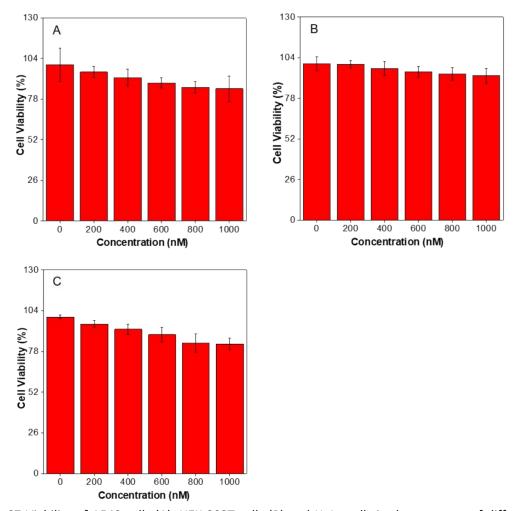


Fig. S5 UV-Vis spectra of dhBBR in the PBS buffer solutions with different pH values. [dhBBR] = 10  $\mu$ M.



**Fig. S6** Time course of the fluorescence intensity ratios ( $I_{518}/I_{455}$ ) of dhBBR (10  $\mu$ M) in PBS buffer at pH 3 and pH 10.



**Fig. S7** Viability of A549 cells (A), HEK 293T cells (B) and HeLa cells in the presence of different concentrations of dhBBR for 24 h. Data are expressed as mean value of six separate trials.

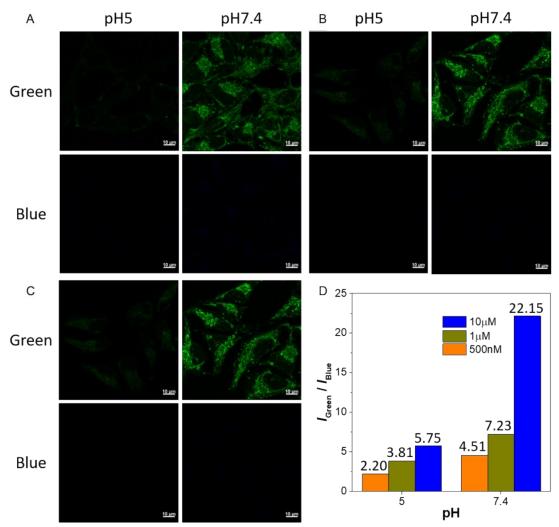


Fig. S8 CLSM images of HeLa cells stained with varied concentrations of dhBBR in different pH PBS buffers for 30 min. dhBBR Concentrations: (A) 500 nM. (B) 1 $\mu$ M. (C) 10 $\mu$ M. (D) Relative PL intensity of varied concentrations of dhBBR treated HeLa cells in different pH PBS buffers. Scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m.